

REMARKS

Introduction

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-25 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 10, 15, 19, and 24 are written in independent form. Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 15, 18, 19, and 24 have been amended. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 14, 26, and 27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is being presented. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are requested.

Claim Rejections

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 7-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, by this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 15, 19, and 24 have been amended to incorporate all of the features originally recited in dependent claim 7, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, now canceled.

In particular:

Claims 1, 10, 19, and 24 have been amended to recite all of the features originally appearing in claims 2, 4, 5, and 7, now canceled.

Claim 15 has been rewritten into independent claim form to recite all of the features originally appearing in claims 10, 2, 5, and 7.

Dependent claims 3, 6, 8, and 18 have been amended to depend from one of amended independent claims 1 and 10, instead of canceled claims 2, 5, 7, and 14, respectively.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record, and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

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Docket No.: 102-1001
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Reply to the Office Action of May 13, 2008

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 502827.

Respectfully submitted,

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